(a) whether the Karnataka Government had sought Central assistance of Rs. 80.51 crores to revive and rejuvenate rural water supply schemes; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka had submitted a contingent action plan amounting to Rs. 80.51 crores to mitigate drinking water problem in the rural areas of 154 drought affected Taluks in 24 districts. However, *vide* letter no. R.D. P.R. Secy/5337/02 dated 1st October, 2002 Government of Karnataka has revised the need to Rs. 11.55 crore.

(b) A Central Team was deputed by the Government of India to assess the drought situation in Karnataka. The inter-Ministerial Group bedded by Secretary (Agriculture), Government of India recommended (a) release of Rs. 10 crore from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and (b) release of Rs. 157.68 lakh from 5% of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) earmarked for natural calamities and emergent conditions. Rs. 157.68 lakh have been released to the State Government towards additional Central assistance to meet the rural drinking water supply requirement arising due to drought situation in the State during 2002-2003, out of 5% of the total Central Rural Water Supply Outlay earmarked for contingencies arising due to natural calamities/disaster.

Financial assistance for rural development schemes

870. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to release financial assistance to State Governments to launch Rural Development Schemes especially in the backward districts of our country, and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds earmarked for this scheme, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government propose to launch a new Scheme, namely, Jai Prakash Rozgar Guarantee Yojana (JPRGY) to provide employment guarantee to the rural poor in the most backward districts of the country. The details of the Scheme, including allocation of funds, have not been finalised.